# REDBIRD WORD

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 8 SENIOR EDITION

We should have been Smurfs. Kelly - Wonder Woman
I'm magic! Erin - Rainbow Brite
Laura - Skipper
I did this cover. Now read your durn paper. Amy - Strawberry Shortcake
By the Power of Greyskull I --AHHH! Get those things away from me!! Stephen - He-man
Katie - Madonna
Missy - She-ra

We're 80's Children and we're not growing up! We're 80's Children and we're not growing up! We're 80's Children and we're not growing up! We're 80's Children and we're

# Don't Look Back

*By Kelly Lappin*
*Editor-in-Chief*

It is finally the end of my senior year. Many of my peers are looking back at their high school years, laughing, crying, or whatever emotion their memories might stir up. I guess for some people, the end of this era in our lives is a time for reflection. Well, not me.

Maybe it's because my senior year was actually my worst year, and I just want to get on with my life and forget about it. Or maybe it's that stupid Coke commercial about the kids who wish they could stay on the subway together forever. Whatever the reason, I think it is a better idea to focus on the present, or maybe even the future. Both are healthier thoughts than reflecting upon your high school days, wishing they would never end.

The truth is, it doesn't matter how much fun or how many friends you had in high school. Whether you were the most popular or the biggest loser, it is still pretty sad if high school truly is the "best time of your life."

*photo courtesy of virtualave.net*
*Yes, it's the Beastie Boys.*
*Why? Because I can.*

There is so much more waiting for all of us when we get out of high school, if we open our minds and allow ourselves to accept new responsibilities and experiences. We *can* survive without the people we've seen everyday since middle school, and without the people we've been friends with since first grade and unrealistically assume will never lose priority in our lives. If you try too hard to keep the same friends, you could be losing out on getting to know all the new people around you. Who knows what you could be missing.

*photo courtesy of cibomatto.com*
*ıka Honda and Miho Hatori of*
*'bo Matto. Again, because I can.*

You probably do have some memories worth keeping. There's nothing wrong with that. Just don't dwell on the past assuming the future can't be as good. because no matter how good high school was for you, even if you think life can't get any better, it can. For those of you who didn't have such a good ıe in the past four years, just wait. College can't be as bad.


## RedBird Word
### Editorial Staff

***Editor-in-Chief..... Kelly Lappin***

Music Entertainment Editor.....**Catharine McNelly**
Movie Entertainment Editor.....**Katie Manning**
News Editor.....**David Fitzgerald**
Cover Story Editor.....**Amy Porter**
Sports Editor.....**Jeff Saville**
Features Editor.....**Jama Fabry**
Backpage Editor.....**Courtney Mathus**
Humor Editor.....**Stephen Heintz**
Business Editor.....**Audrey Hinrichs**
Photographers.....**Laura Smock, Melissa Minton**
Managing Editor.....**Erin McCann**
Copy Editor.....**Robert Doyle**
Senior Editors.....**Stacey Garrison, Michael Huber, Megan Williams, Stephanie Wright**
Journalism Adviser.....**Annice Brave**
Printing Adviser.....**Bob Tucker**


## Our Mission For 2001

Our mission as journalists of the RedBird Word is to bring you, the students, the who, what, when, where, and why of the news. Aside from the facts we will strive to enlighten and entertain. This is a paper for the students, created by the students, so as your voice, help us be heard.

## Letters to the Editor

### What Do You Think?

The RedBird Word staff wants to hear from you. If you have any questions, comments about a story, or want a refund, let us know. Feel free to drop your letter by Room 401, put it in Mrs. Brave's mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at klappin@journalist.com. Also, clubs and organizations who would like to advertise events or awards can have a club sponsor or member contact us. We'll run an ad for your activity for FREE, just let us know!

***cover photo by Audrey Hinrichs***

# Words of Wisdom

*By Missy Minton*
*Photographer*

Well, it's finally here. The day I've been waiting for since I found out that school can be boring. Graduation! No more of the calling Mom to tell her where I am. No 1 a.m. curfew and no more of the immature 'he said she said fights' that permiate high school halls. It's time to leave and no one is more willing to get out of here than I am.

Now it's off to college and time to start a new life, a life of independence and freedom. These are what I have longed for since freshman year.

Yet, sometimes I wonder if I have been in such a hurry to get out of here that I took for granted everything that has happend to me in the last four years. Actually I have had a great high school career. I have discovered what I want to do with the rest of my life. I have been blessed with three life long friends, and have been presented with opportunities in which I have learned skills that will last me a lifetime.

If I had to give advice to all the underclassmen, I would have five things to say.

**1. Every day smile at someone you don't know. You never know if they will come into your life later.**
**2. No one is better than anyone else. If you think you are above someone you are in for a huge disappointment. Popularity in high school means nothing and it won't matter in 10 years.**
**3. Get things done ahead of time. Especially your CP 4 honors research paper.**
**4. Don't sell yourself short by settling on one boy or girl. High school is not the be all end all of relationships. As someone once said, "There are so many fish in the sea." If you think you'll spend the rest of your life with a person, make sure it's the right one.**
**5. Live in the moment. Don't spend too much time dwelling on the past or stressing about the future. Today is too beautiful not to savor it.**

Well, ok, that last piece of advice is not mine to give. It was ctually given to me by a dear friend. Nevertheless, heed what I ay and you should do just fine for the rest of your high school ears.

Good luck and see you in the real world.

# Pitballs, Memories and Us

*By Jama Fabry*
*Features Editor*

As someone once wisely pointed out, the person you will spend most of the rest of your life with is yourself, and therefore you owe it to yourself to become as interesting as possible. We have all witnessed some very unique experiences throughout our years as AHS hoodlums. The booming bass from a cadillac's trunk, the horrid smell drifting from the cafeteria, the frightened face of a freshman rolling down the hill in a trash can. Events like these have given us irreplaceable memories that will last forever.

Sure, things were not all peaches and cream. They caged us in like animals, confiscated our Pittballs and hackey saks, revoked junior parking privileges and even tried to bribe us with hopes of donuts. We have undoubtedly caught ourselves declaring, "I hate this f@!%*^# school!" throughout our miscreant adventures.

What many do not realize is that other schools are missing out. They do not have a "Pit ," much less Pit cops, or three buildings to wander around in, or trunks instead of lockers and especially no mysterious fourth floor.

They attempted to boot us out once, but even our parents would not let that happen.

So we have holes in our walls, trees that smell like dead fish, no air-conditioning and a serious bee problem -- but all these flaws simply give AHS it's character. My only hope is that future Redbirds will have the opportunity to create the memories that we have.

Though we spend much of our lives planning for the future, we never know what to truly expect until we are on the edge and ready to jump. All I can say is that we should enjoy every minute while it lasts: the fights, watching everyone slide across the Pit on an icy day or leaving for lunch and deciding to just not come back.

We will remember our caring friends, our emotions and inspirational teachers. We will never again be hit in the head by flying tennis balls, or caught behind a couple lip-locked on the stairs or told "Put on your ID!" Through the thick and the thin we can honestly say that "We are loyal to you, Alton High."

# Hey You, Shut Up Back There

*By Erin McCann*
*Managing Editor*

As I leave for college, I can't help but do what every senior does: look back over my four years at Alton High. For me, the best memories were on stage. In the past four years, I have been on stage over 20 times for theatrical and choral performances. I have a lot of great memories that I would love to be able to express in that bubbly manner that I'm sure everyone is expecting, but that's not what I'm going to do.

For every great memory I have of performing, I can also remember the faces of students who sat in the back row of the auditorium to cash in on their extra credit. It's depressing to think that the students at our school are so culturally numb that they are incapable of sitting still for 90 minutes; keep in mind we give everyone a 10 minute break in the middle.

When I've attended sports events, I clapped, followed the game as best I could, and tried to be as supportive as possible. It would be nice to think that the student body would give the fine arts departments that same respect, whether it be theatre, chorus, band or orchestra.

For three years I have spent two or three hours a night rehearsing, seven hours a week working on sets, three hours a week on publicity, and countless hours of my own time stressing over anything else that needs to be taken care of. It is depressing to think that after dedicating my entire existence to a show for six weeks, there is still some kid and his obnoxious friends distracting the rest of the audience from enjoying what I've worked so hard on.

The same girl who makes fun of the plays and the people who are in them is usually the same girl who talked through the first act, and tried to convince Mr. Waters to sign her program before sneaking out during intermission. News flash, not only can we see you, but we talk the same way about you.

Hopefully, college will be a place where students will have an attention span longer than five minutes, and will only attend performances because they enjoy the arts.

As I leave for college, I can't help but think about something not many other seniors are thinking about: what will happen after I'm gone. I'll go to a place where students have some concept of respect, but I still have friends here. Those friends will have to deal with the same things that irritate me now, and no editorial will ever change that. For years to come there will be students singing and acting on Alton High's stage. Keep in mind how hard they've worked to do what they do, and be mature enough to respect that.

# Old Memories and Other Ramblings

*By Robert Doyle*
*Copy Editor*

It's only a matter of days until the graduating class of 2001 moves out of Alton High and on with the rest of their lives. Everyone always says "your high school years are the best years of your life" and "you'll miss it when you're gone."

It's hard to believe that after 12 years of public education in Alton that it's so abruptly coming to an end. How many of you can remember your first day of Kindergarten, being upset because you were going to be away from mom and dad for the first time? Good, neither can I.

You know what I can remember? I remember the letter puppets in my Kindergarten class helping us learn the alphabet. I remember always thinking my third grade teacher was sleeping in class. I remember my fifth grade teacher, Mr. Gardner, who I have grown to consider the father I never had for the last seven years.

I remember Mrs. O'Neil and Mrs. Sims, the choral directors at East Middle School, who gave me my first real chance at what has become my passion and probably my life. I also remember Mrs. Roady announcing she was pregnant to the class. I remember my after class conversations with Mrs. Gonzales and Mrs. Curlovic at East Middle.One of the highlights of my middle school education was being selected to work on The Buzzagraph, the East Middle School newspaper. That was a rewarding experience.

I'll never forget anything about high school. Alton High has an incredible history, and it's a very special place to me, too. From the awkward moments of being on campus for the first time as a freshman, to my tear-filled sentimental last moments on campus as a senior; every friend, every event, every detail of this school, and the life I now have thanks to this school and events that took place here will always be with me.

In the past four years, I have learned, I have grown, and I have become me. In the past year, I have had to stop and pinch myself because things were moving so fast. In the last month, I have reflected on my years here, as well as my years at other schools along the way. When they said that your high school years are the best years of your life, they were right.

# Reaching For Goals
## Despite an Incredible Obstacle

*By Chavon Curry*

It's something that I have to face everyday; not something that anyone with a genuine heart could turn away from. It is called being a high school student- and pregnant.

On a regular basis stereotypes are thrown at me, many without anyone ever having to say a word. I know that it is assumed that a young, pregnant female can't make it in this whirlwind of a society. It is assumed that she will not be a good student, better yet, will take the easy way out and just drop out of high school.

Many young women fall into that pattern. Unlike them, I refuse to let anything, or anyone, come between me and my dreams. Certainly, the road between Texas and Canada is a long one unless you decide to fly. Just the same, the road to finally getting where I want to be will not be an easy one. Instead of focusing on negativity, I will use my hope as an airplane to get me to my destined point in life.

Instead of going out every weekend like many of my peers, I will have to take on the job of changing diapers, washing out bottles, feeding my baby and giving her all the love and attention she will need.

It is a big sacrifice I will have to make, one that could have been prevented if I had only taken the right precautions. I didn't, so now I am being looked in the eyes by motherhood, which is scary. Scary because motherhood and independence are something I will have to learn sooner than planned.

Although the questions of "How can I do this?" and "Will I be able to be a good mother?" run through my mind, I know I have no choice but to be a good mother, because my daughter deserves the best out of life- and so do I.

**Editor's Note:** On April 9, Chavon Curry delivered a baby girl. Chaianna weighed five pounds, 14 ounces. We wish them both the best of luck.

# Senioritis
## and Great Expectations

*By Audrey Hinrichs*
*Business Editor*

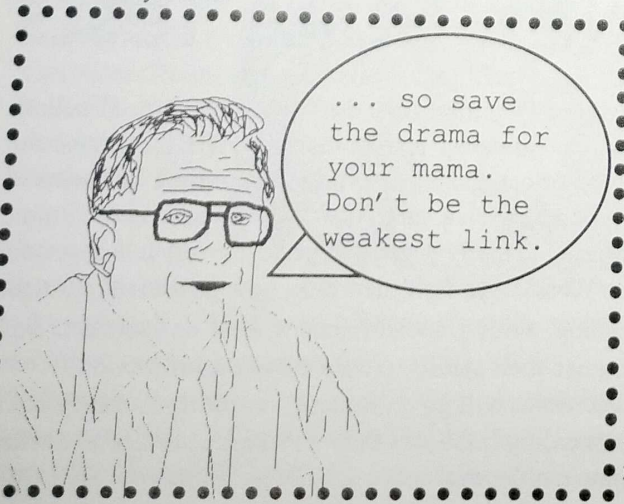
Whoever claims high school was the best time of their life must have a selective memory. Obviously they don't remember the pressure, the after school job, homework or how cruel kids can be. All senior year seems to do is highlight disappointments and serve as a waiting period for college and adult life to begin. Nearly everyone expects to have an easy year, partying with their classmates before graduation. Some of us are not plagued by senioritis, while some of us have been victims since freshman year. For me, senioritis set in sometime in early April. I found myself trying to study, but I couldn't focus. It felt like I built a wall blocking any information from that point on. During the school day, my mind wanders aimlessly thinking about college, scholarships and expectations. I think senioritis is an excuse we all use. For me, it was the reason my grades dropped and the reason I didn't make it into the school of my choice.

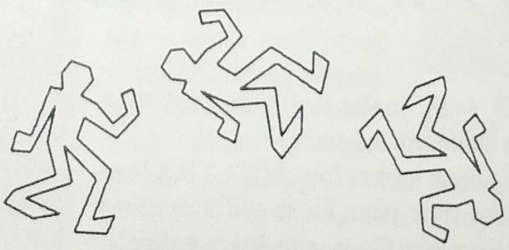
Anyone who has worked hard in high school is either taking a breath of relief or somehow punishing themselves for goals not met. At the close of my senior year I have one thought- I could have done better. At this point in time, I don't see myself ever saying, "high school was the best time of my life." High school, above all other things, is about finding out who you are and what you want out of life. I have had some very hard times in high school and some good ones as well. I hope I will remember the real moments when I laughed and cried with close friends and not the superficial accomplishments that would make my high school career a success.

I choose to remember and thank the many people who have made an impact on my life. I will not forget Mrs. Brave's stories and endless wisdom or Mr. Kline's undying efforts to get students to read or the way my U.S. History teacher at Marquette, Mr. Slaughter, would lecture on teenage love. I regret not getting to know several people at Alton High on a more personal level. You should never be too busy to make another friend. Senior year has awakened me to many realities: leaving home, paying for college, choosing a path in life, leaving a lot of good friends, and becoming solely responsible for myself and my actions. I am not prepared to do most of these things, but there is something exciting about uncertainty and finally moving on.

# Then Again Not

*By Amy Porter*
*Cover Story Editor*



...Three journalism 2 students jumped out the fourth story window today after a maddening 15 minute blood drive announcement...

Senior Edition 2001

RBW

# NEWS

AHS-USA-World

## NHS Inducts 44

**By Alison Hanold**

The AHS chapter of the National Honor Society recently inducted its new members for the 2001-2002 school year. On March 29, the annual tapping ceremony was held in the auditorium, where this year's current members tapped the shoulders of the 44 new and unsuspecting members. These members, who had worked hard to academically meet the requirements of the society, were invited to come back that evening to attend the full induction ceremony.

*photo by David Fitzgerald*

*Scott Helfrich, Nick Hauseman, Tim Grant and Kory Heitzig (in back) celebrate their induction into the society.*

The induction ceremony, which featured entertainment from the AHS choral department, began with the candle lighting ceremony, presented by this year's current officers. The ceremony represented the four aspects that Honor Society members should strive for : character, service, leadership, and scholarship.

The guest speaker, Dr. Ed Hightower, former principal of Eunice Smith Elementary, was already familiar with many of the inductees.

The new inductees were then sworn in. A reception followed.

"It made me feel great to get inducted," said junior Heather Baumberger. " It makes me feel as though my three years of working so hard have finally paid off."

## Spring Blood Drive

### AHS Takes The High School Challenge

**By Erin DeBlass**

Every day 32,000 people in the United States need blood or blood products. This means that 95 percent of Americans will need blood in their lifetime. Despite these statistics, only about five percent of the country regularly gives blood.

The students and faculty of AHS exceed this national average. In the 2000 Fall Blood Drive, "Vein Drain," the American Red Cross collected almost 200 pints of usable blood. This placed the AHS average at about 20 percent.

Due to increasing demand coupled with a decrease in donations, the blood supply in the St. Louis area has become dangerously low. In response to this need, the AHS Student Senate held their annual spring blood drive on April 27.

This year's spring blood drive had a new feature, the High School Challenge. The High School Challenge is a contest between schools in the Madison County area including Granite City, Edwardsville and Calhoun.

Christy Kish of the American Red Cross said, "Schools participating in the contest will compete in three areas: most percentage of donors, most percentage of first time donors and most percentage of faculty donors. The winners of each category will receive a traveling plaque and the overall winner will receive a traveling trophy and 'bragging rights.' Results of the contest and awards will be disclosed in May."

This year 193 people donated blood for a total of 168 usable pints, only 32 pints short of the 200 pint goal.

The blood drive took place April 27 from 9 AM to 2 PM in the girls' gym. This year the blood drive was for students and faculty only, no donations were accepted from members of the community.

## Juniors First to Take New State Tests

***By David Fitzgerald***

*News Editor*

On April 24 and 25, every junior in Illinois took time out of classes to take two standardized tests.

On April 24, every junior took a free ACT. "The benefits of the test are that the state pays for it and it is given during school time," said Resource Counselor Joyce Ashpole. Ashpole still recommends taking the test more than once.

One complaint about the tests is classroom distractions. "When you take it at school not everyone may be as serious as you," Ashpole said.

"There were a few classroom distractions, but the test was pretty easy," said junior Misty Prater.

On April 25, juniors took the Work Keys Test. The Work Keys Test has an easier format than the ACT. To make the test, The American College Testing Corporation interviewed hundreds of people in a variety of different jobs to determine what skills are actually needed to perform well at that certain job. The Work Keys Test then tests how proficient students are in reading, writing, social sciences, math and science. Students can use their scores to help choose a profession.

Test scores will go on students' transcripts. Many companies, including IBM, say they will look at test scores when hiring new employees.

# Business is Pleasure

*By Erin McCann*
*Managing Editor*

Seniors Michele Cook and Laura Wickenhauser have been chosen to attend the "Surf to Freedom" Business Professionals of America 2001 National Leadership Conference from May 9 to May 13. Cook and Wickenhauser, who are members of the Alton J. B. Johnson Center chapter of the Business Professionals of America, are two of over 4,000 delegates to be attending the conference in Anaheim, California.

"I'm nervous about how I'll do there, but I'm excited because I remember how much fun I had last year," said Cook, who will be attending the conference for the second time.

Business Professionals of America is a nationwide organization consisting of high school and college-aged students who plan on having a career in business. The organization tries to give students practical experiences with which to apply what they have learned about business in the classroom.

While at the conference, Cook and Wickenhauser will compete against students in national level business skill competitions, attend workshops and general sessions. Also, candidates for the national officers of the organization will be campaigning, and elections for those positions will be held. Cook and Wickenhauser will also have the opportunity to tour the sights of Anaheim.

"The conference will be the culmination of a school year's worth of business work force education and training which members of the local chapter of Business Professionals of America at J. B. Johnson Center have received," said chapter advisor Donna Suess. Suess teaches Office Occupations Cooperative and Information Processing.

At the state level, Wickenhauser placed first in the Advanced Office Systems competition. Cook placed second in Data Base Applications as well as Integrated Office Applications. To compete in these categories, Cook and Wickenhauser had to display their ability to use secretarial and decision making skills using Microsoft Office and Corel software on an IBM computer.

The state contests were also attended by junior Mandi Azzarello, who placed fourth in Basic Office Systems, as well as junior Amy Kozonasky, junior Heather Bryant, and senior Rebecca Krueger.

"Michele and I would just like to thank Ms. Suess for giving us the opportunity to go to state and advance to nationals," said Laura Wickenhauser.

Students provide their own funding to participate in the group, but the group hopes to collect donations to lower the cost to the organization. Donations can be sent to J. B. Johnson Center, c/o Donna Suess, 4200 Humbert Road, Alton, Il 62002. Checks should be made payable to JBJ Business Professionals of America.

# Quill And Scroll

## Society Welcomes New Members

*By Laura Smock*
*Photographer*

Quill and Scroll, the International Honorary Society for high school journalists, was founded April 10, 1926. Seventy-five years later the Lovejoy Chapter of Quill and Scroll inducted 26 new members. Quill and Scroll was created by a group of teachers to recognize and to reward worthy high school journalists.

Inductees and previous members gathered in the Alton High School Cafeteria for the spring induction ceremony April 17. The night started off with a welcome from Tatler adviser Susan Moore and RedBird Word Adviser Annice Brave. Remarks were also given by RedBird Word editors, Tatler co-editors and Calliope editors. The night continued on to the induction of new members, the presentation of 2001-2002 editors for the RedBird Word and Tatler and then a treat of cake and punch. "It is a great honor to be inducted into Quill and Scroll, especially since this was my first year on the Tatler staff," said junior Jennifer Moats.

*photo courtesy of Jama Fabry*
*Quill and Scroll members and Mrs. Brave.*

# Study Hall Can Be Fun

## Teacher Gets Students To Like Study Hall

*By David Fitzgerald*
*News Editor*

With almost one year of a closed campus behind them, many of Felicia Jones' students have come to enjoy their lunch study hall.

Jones uses a more relaxed atmosphere in her study halls. "We have discussions to give students an outlet," said Jones, "but they still get to study." Jones also holds various trivia contests and games that allow the students to get to know each other. Jones also brings in movies that deal with the same issues many high school students are facing. "I think you can really get a lot done in a study hall depending on the way you run it," she said.

*photo by David Fitzgerald*
*Felicia Jones sitting at her desk.*

Her students agree. Sophomore Jennifer Williamson said, "I like this study hall because Miss Jones is cool. She treats us like adults." Junior Nicole Poston said, "I like how we don't have to sit and be totally silent. I can ask for help on my homework, study in groups, or talk to Miss Jones about something."

# Senior Class of 2001 College Plans

RBW

Senior Edition 2001

***Bradley University***
Heather Arce
Audrey Hinrichs
Lauren Rosenburg
Laura Ursprung

***Brigham Young University***
Lindsay Owens

***Carthage College***
Anna Noel

***Colorado University - Boulder***
Edain Butterfield

***Cottey College***
Erin McCann

***Danville College***
Laura Smock

***DePaul University***
Megan Pope

***DePauw University***
Ashley Holland

***Drake University***
Emily Wunderlich

***Eastern Illinois University***
Laura Hammond

***Florissant Valley***
Ashley Woelfel
Rachel Wedding

***Harper College***
Zach Wooley

***Hickey College***
David Schuder

***Illinois College***
Peter Wilson

***Illinois Institute of Technology***
Eric Heischmidt

***Illinois State University***
Stacey Garrison
Katie Hard
Chris Hill

***Indiana University - Bloomington***
Andrew Shimunek

***Knox College***
Michael Huber

***LCCC***
Derek Allen
Sarah Basola
Christianne Beck
Danny Brown
Ashley Budde
Holly Busse
Christine Calmese
Matt Cress
Robert Doyle
Ben Harris
Amy Porter
Abby Purcell
Phil Ruppert
Jeff Saville
Amanda Seymour
Blake Snyder
Jennifer Wedding
Chris Woulfe
Stephanie Wright

***Lake Forrest College***
Adele Lahl

***Loyola University***
Megan Williams

***Millikin University***
James Mays II
Melissa Minton

***Ouachita Baptist University***
Rachel Sidwell

***Saint Louis University***
Gretchen Steingrubey

***SIUE***
Jon Darr
Tricia Koehne
Jenny Gillson
Lindsey Allison

***Southwestern Illinois College***
Courtney Mathus

***Southwest Missouri Baptist***
Dawn Maker

***Truman State University***
Ryan Durham
Stephen Heintz

***The School of the Art Institute of Chicago***
Kelly Osborn

***University of Illinois - Champaign***
Michael Crammond
Paul Rogers

***University of Illinois - Chicago***
Jama Fabry
Kelly Smith

***University of Iowa***
Katie Willings

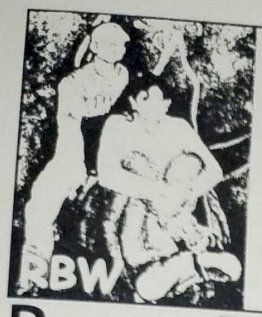
***University of Missouri - Columbia***
Tony Hong

***Webster University***
Kelly Lappin
Katie Manning
Catharine McNelly

***Wesleyan University***
Adam Hott

***Western Illinois University***
Rachel Abner
David Fitzgerald
John Huber
Lauren Schleper
Joe Scyoc

*The RedBird Word would like to congratulate the entire Senior Class of 2001. Good luck to everyone next year!*




# Features

## Prom Dreams Are Becoming Reality

*By Jama Fabry*
*Features Editor*

A shiny black limo rolls to a stop as shimmering gowns and sleek tuxedos flow out of it. This mystical sight can only mean one frightening thing-Prom is just around the corner.

With expensive necessities such as dinner reservations, a mode of transportation and, of course, tickets, many students are finding themselves working extra hours or ransacking the couch.

Senior, Junior and even some underclassmen girls are frantically making hair and nail appointments and trying to uncover that perfect dress. Plus searching for shoes, accessories and flowers to match that dress and, oh yes, nabbing that hottie in their Government class.

Activities Board members argued and debated, finally choosing "Am I Dreaming" as the 2001 Prom theme. This magical night will commence on May 19 from 8 to 12 in the SIUE Ballroom. It will be elegantly decoraed with stars and trees in purple and silver.

Prom will host the usual DJ anthe poplular candle-filled glasses. There are a few special editions this year. Seniors will be receiving confetti-stuffed invitations by mail and along with the paper tickets will be a keychain which is also their ticket. For 12 dollars students can purchase personalized diposable cameras, which print the event and date along the bottom.

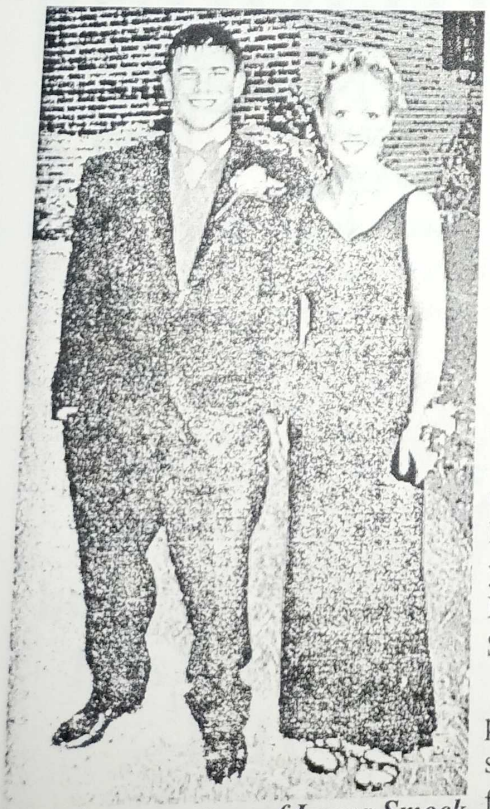


*photo courtesy of Laura Smock*

"The Juniors have spent alot of timeand effort working on this year's Prom. They argued a lot about the colors and theme, but hopefully we'll have a great turnout this year," said Activities Board Treasurer Stephanie Hoke.

Prom tickets can be purchased before or after school in the main office for 20 dollars, or for 25 dollars at the door.

## Back to the Future

*By Scott Schwartz*

New Kids On the Block, side ponytails and leg warmers give us all frightening flashbacks of the 1980s. As the graduating class of 2001 marches across the stage to receive their diplomas this June, they will have come a long way. A lot of things have changed in the world in the past 18 years.

*'80s Flashback to Boy George and the Culture Club*

When this year's seniors were taking their first breaths, Michael Jackson was mesmerizing the youth of the time by wearing only one glove and dancing with the undead while releasing *Thriller.* On the other end of the musical spectrum Ozzy Osborne was biting the head off of a live bat. Modern rap was flowing out of Queens, New York with the birth of Run-D.M.C. Boy George and The Culture Club brought gender bending to mainstream America with thier 1982 release *Kissing to Be Clever.*

Some great cultural changes occurred in the early eighties as well. In 1982 liposuctions were introduced and the nation evolved from records and eight tracks to compact discs and camcorders. "Just Say No!" was implemented as the main weapon against the war on drugs and the Cabbage Patch doll was born.

*Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* revealed the future to Americans and along with *Flashdance* was the biggest box office draw of the time. Eighteen years later the top grossing films are *Stars Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.* Many of our seniors were crawling around in diapers while the last episodes of M*A*S*H were being aired on TV. *Miami Vice* made greased back hair and loafers popular with all ages.

Tastes, fashions and society have changed throughout the years and will continue to into the future. While seniors may look back and laugh at the culture they were born into, in another 18 years they will be laughing at the way they look today.

# Big Brass Invades Alton

*By Stacey Garrison*
*Senior Editor*

High school marching band is very exciting for many students, and every fall schools all across the nation compete for bragging rights and trophies; the Alton Marching 100 is no exception. However, as early as January, a very different, very extreme competition begins.

There are over 70 official drum corps located all over the world, which are divided up into three divisions. A drum corps, unlike a high school marching band, has no woodwind instruments. There are flags, different types of percussion, and various types of bugles, ranging from the soprano bugle to the contra bugle.

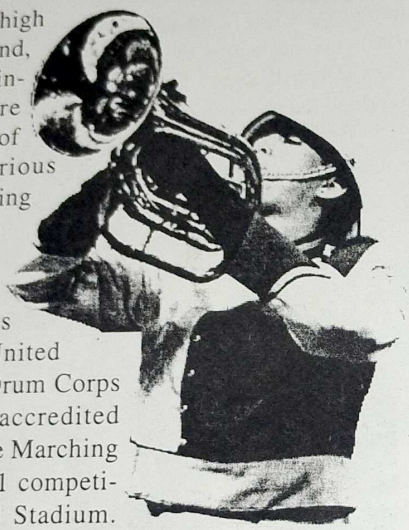


*photo courtesy of Jolesch Photography*

Drum corps travel all over the United States competing at Drum Corps International (DCI) accredited events. Every year the Marching 100 holds a Division 1 competition at Public School Stadium. This year on July 16 the Drum and Brass Review will feature some of the top drum corps in the nation, including Phantom Regiment and the Cavaliers, who tied with the Cadets last year for DCI world champion.

Many members of the Marching 100 have taken an active interest in drum corps competition and membership. Steve Allen, a junior on the Marching 100 tuba line, tried out for the Cavaliers last winter. "It was amazing to see how well I ranked against so many college players," Allen said.

It takes much dedication to compete and tour with a drum corps. Each corps' show is learned prior to touring in the summer, so members undergo rigorous training and practices. "It became a way of life for me. Everyone who can should try out at least once," said Wil Ele, former member of the Belleville Black Nights, and music arranger for the Marching 100.

There are many opportunities available for those students who wish to continue marching band after high school. Participating in a drum corps is very expensive, but those who have often go back year after year. For those students unable to afford drum corps, many colleges offer very good marching band programs. Either way, students who want to can continue marching band for many years after high school.

# RBW Takes Chicago

*By Megan Williams*
*Senior Editor*

The RedBird Word staff was nearly blown away by the bright lights and big city life of Chicago. The Journalism II class recently took its annual three day trip to the Windy City from April 11-13. The students were able to experience many different places including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Chicago Board of Trade, (shown in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off") and much more.

Students were given free time during the day to go and explore the city. Some students found a local blues club and spent the evening there while others chose to go to the famous Ed Debevik's. Everyone was given the opportunity to attend a minor league hockey game with Mr. Tucker, go to Chinatown with Mrs. Moore, or go to a comedy club with Mr. Heintz and, of course, lots and lots of shopping. Chicago has all kinds of attractions for whatever anyone would want to do.

Entertainment Editor Catharine McNelly said, "I love Chicago! It's one of my favorite cities. We all had such a great time."

By the end of the trip everyone was exhausted but still having a great time.

"Chicago was a lot of fun but a little tiring," said Movie Entertainment Editor Katie Manning, "I fell asleep on a table at the Field Museum. I drooled."

The students got to know each other a little better on the trip, some building lasting friendships. It was a wonderful and memorable trip for everyone on it.

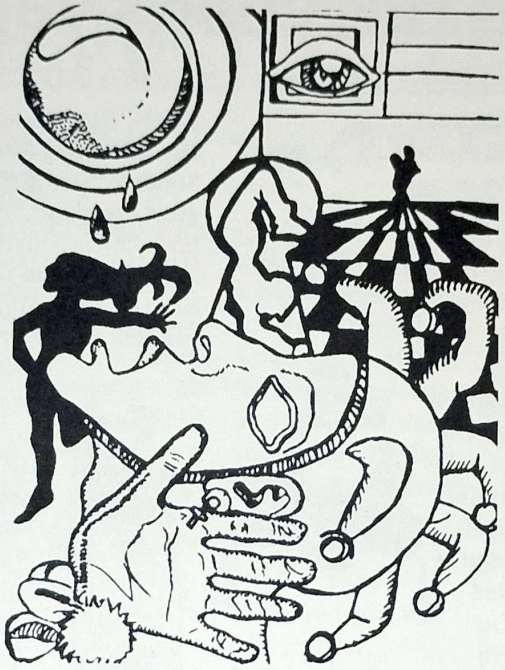
Solutions
Hair & Nails
Consultants:
Wade Gibson
Billie Gusewell Jenna Quigley
Brenda Abert Ruth Ann Schien
Missy Brogon Ivy Fredenberg
"A Real Salon for Real People"
NEXUS

Call For Prom Do's and Nails!
(618) 465-9121
1726 Main St. Alton, IL

# Calliope

Alton High's art and literature magazine

$6.00



Room 401

On Sale Now!

## *Congratulations to the 2001-2002 RedBird Word Staff*

Editor-in-Chief- **Alison Hanold**

News Editor.....**Adam Betz**
Features Editor.....**Laura Griffith**
Entertainment Editor.....**Scott Schwartz**
Cover Story Editor.....**Andrew Duggan**
Humor Editor.....**Nancy McDonald**
Sports Editor.....**Carol Lyons**
Backpage Editor.....**Kari Oglesby**
Copy Editor.....**Dan Lester**
Business Editor.....**Josh Lambie**
Photographers.....**Christin Campbell**
**Jennifer Frederick**
Managing Editor.....**Nik Kern**

# SENIOR E

RBW

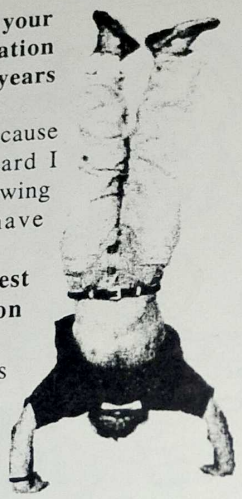
*By Audrey Hinrichs*

## Who will be this year's valedictorian?

### Michael Crammond or Rachel Sidwell

**RBW: Do you feel that your hard work and dedication during these four years was worth it?**

Crammond: Yes, because if I didn't work hard I would regret not knowing what I could have achieved.



**RBW: What is the best memory you have had here at Alton High?**

Crammond: I guess it was the Main stairs episode. I remember parking by the entrance of the Pit, and they put the orange gate up, so I couldn't back up, so I asked a Pit cop to move it and he said, 'I'm busy.' So I figured I woud drive through the grass and park somewhere else. I stuck my car in four-wheel drive and began driving up the hill, when Mr. Hardeman walked up.

**RBW: If you could somehow change the experiences you had in high school, how would you do things differently?**

Crammond: I would have preferred not to be in the top of the class, just so I was allowed margin of error.

**RBW: Name one lesson you have learned from high school.**

Crammond: Never let anyone borrow more than ten dollars.

**RBW: Did you enjoy your role as National Honor Society President?**

Sidwell: Yes. The members made it a great experience by enthusiastically participating in activities and meetings.

**RBW: What is the best memory you have of Alton High?**

Sidwell: I'll always remember my senior cross country season when the girls' team qualified for sectionals.

**RBW: If you could somehow change the experiences you had in high school, how would you do them differently?**

Sidwell: I really do not feel that I would change anything. I've really enjoyed my four years at Alton High.

**RBW: Was all the extra effort you put in during high school worth it?**

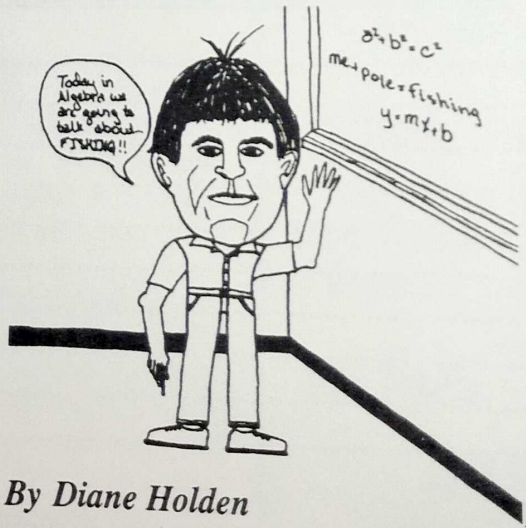
Sidwell: I think it was. I feel very well-prepared for college because I have challenged myself in high school.

**RBW: Name one lesson you have learned from your experiences at Alton High.**

Sidwell: By participating in a variety of activities, I have learned the importance of managing my time wisely.

## Guess Who? Can you name these teachers?

*By Julie Strassman*




*By Diane Holden*

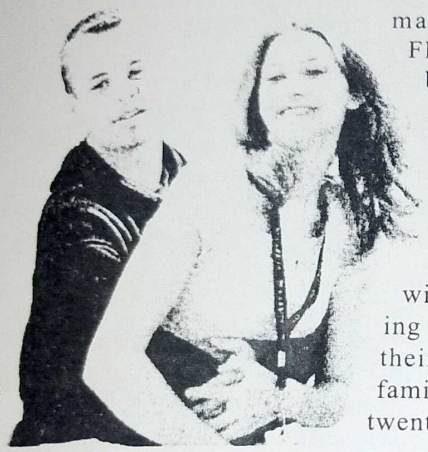
*By Nancy McDonald*

R EDITION 2001

# The Love Doctor Predicts...

## LAURA HAMMOND AND NATHAN GILES

The Love Doctor predicts that Nathan and Laura Giles will be happily married in Miami, Florida. Nathan will be hired by a popular stand-up club to sit on the side of the stage and laugh at everything whether it is funny or not. Laura will stay home tending to their house and their abnormally large family (between 12 and twenty little ones in all.)



## TONY HONG AND MEGAN POPE

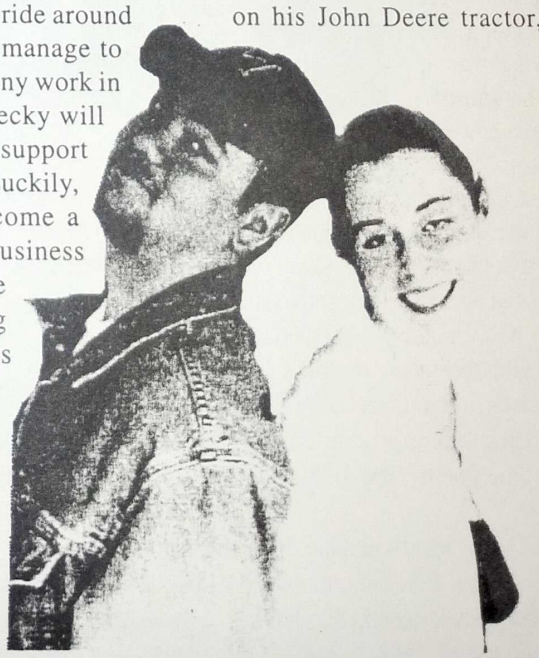
The Love Doctor sees "Power Couple" in the future of these two. Megan and Tony Pope will be married four years after graduation and move to New York City where they will be the toast of the town. They will be very successful in their jobs, she as a celebrity lawyer and him as a world famous chef. They will have two children, Megan and Tony Jr. who will drop out of high school to join the pro tennis circuit.

## STEPHEN HEINTZ AND ERIN MCCANN

The Love Doctor predicts that Stephen and Erin Heintz will elope in Las Vegas after graduation. Having always wanted a Hollywood wedding, they recreate the wedding scene from "Muppets take Manhattan," in which Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy are married. Having blown all of their savings on something both outrageous and nerdy, they are forced to abandon their dreams of Broadway, and work as church puppeteers: Erin operating the puppets as Stephen provides goofy voices.

## JEFF SAVILLE AND BECKY PADDOCK

The Love Doctor predicts that Jeff and Becky Saville will be married right out of high school and buy a small farm in Kansas. Jeff will ride around on his John Deere tractor, and still not manage to accomplish any work in the fields. Becky will be forced to support the couple. Luckily, she will become a successful business woman in the city, working long hours and giving Jeff plenty of time to work on "the Stang."



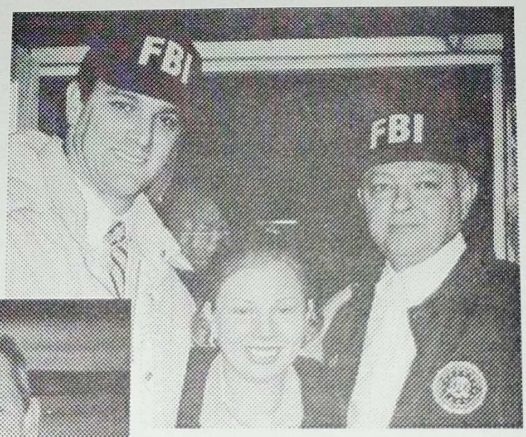
entertainment
music, movies and more!
RBW
Senior Edition 2001

# Hollywood Hits the Streets in Alton

*By Katie Manning*
*Movie Entertainment Editor*

Imagine being treated like a goddess by people from Hollywood. People doing your hair, fixing your makeup, buying your clothes and asking, "How are you doing? Can I get you some coffee?" It was an experience I will never forget. I was, for three short days, a movie star.

On Wednesday, March 21, I met Matt Sloan and Chris Cox, two young hosts of the new TNN show "Small Shots." Following them were two large vans filled with cameramen and sound people. Sloan and Cox proceeded to pass out flyers in the middle of the road. The flyers said auditions would be held at the Alton Little Theatre for the film "Silence of the Yams," a spoof of "Silence of the Lambs." I was convinced they were part of some MTV "Jackass" ripoff and were determined to make fools of the poor, oblivious citizens of Alton, but they were intriguing. We spoke for a while and our whole conversation was taped, including the part when I acted like a moron, trying to get their attention. I couldn't figure them out. Why were big city folk talking to me, asking me to audition? I was suspicious but agreed to show up at auditions anyway.



*photos courtesy of Katie Manning*
*Senior Katie Manning with various co-stars*

On Thursday, I dragged my helpless friend to auditions with me, where we made complete fools of ourselves. Our tasks at auditions included acting "cold and scared," pretending to be vegetables and reading a stanza of the Edgar Allen Poe poem "The Bells," and oh yes, they were still taping.

Out of approximately 30 women, I made it to the final five, and Sloan and Cox later announced I had received the lead role of Clarice. I then shouted, "No I didn't. I thought she would get it," as I pointed to the highly attractive Julianne Moore look-a-like to my right. I was in shock as they repeated, "No, we really picked you!"

The following day I had to work from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. I did a series of activities that were supposed to help me get into character. Mind you, these L.A. people aren't telling me anything ,and I still have no clue what is going on. I traveled to the McPike Mansion, Lovejoy Cemetery, Riverview Park and I participated in a seance to contact Robert Wadlow (Trust me, it's a long story). All of these activities were an attempt to scare me. Needless to say, they didn't work. The only thing that was accomplished was me making an even bigger fool of myself.

On Saturday and Sunday, I filmed at the Beall Mansion in Alton. The movie wrapped up at about 2 a.m. Monday morning. By the time filming was over, I had finally pieced together what I had actually participated in. "Small Shots" is a 30 minute "mocumentary." Sloan and Cox travel to small towns across the country and have "small town" people star in their movies. The movie is only three to five minutes long. "Small Shots" shows Sloan and Cox venturing through the small towns, visiting local sites and holding auditions for their movie. It's a reality show, and at the end of the program, they show the movie.

I don't think I've ever had more fun in my life. I met some of the nicest people. I was treated like royalty, and I was reminded that there is a world outside of Alton. Always remember folks: Alton spelled backwards is NotL.A.

# New Changes for Dave Matthews Band

*By Nancy McDonald*

"Everyday," Dave Matthew Basnd's fourth studio release, is unlike any Dave Matthews Band album released so far.

The members of Dave Matthews Band, Carter Beauford, drums; Stefan Lessard, bass; Dave Matthews lead vocals and guitar; Leroi Moore, saxophone; and Boyd Tinsley, violin, decided they needed a change in their musical style. For this they went to producer Glen Ballard.

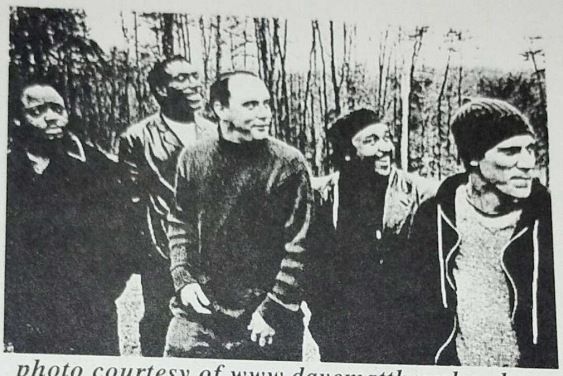


*photo courtesy of www.davematthewsband.com*
*Dave Matthews Band*

Unlike other Dave Matthews Band albums, which strictly use the acoustic guitar, "Everyday" incorporates the electric guitar for almost all of the songs. Matthews' familiar acoustic sound can be heard on some tracks.

Fans of Dave Matthews Band will also notice a huge change in song length. Where songs on the previous albums might go over 10 minutes, the longest song on *"Everyday"* is less than five minutes. DMB decided to take out many of the extended instrumental jams, bringing the album to just over 50 minutes.

The lyrics and melodies are hypnotic, leaving many listeners wanting to hear songs over and over again. Sophomore Lisa Hatten said, "I heard that song 'I Did It' on the radio, and when it was over I wanted to hear it again."

# Phillip Glass at Powell Hall

*By Michael Huber*
*Senior Editor*

"This music will be played for generations to come," conductor Zednek Macal said of Phillip Glass' "Concerto Fantasy for Two Timpanists and Orchestra." The piece made its Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra premiere on Friday, April 6 and ran through the weekend.

Glass, world renowned for his innovative minimalistic pieces, was at Powell Symphony Hall for the performance on Friday. He said he considered Friday's performance to be the "true world premiere," although the official world premiere took place November 19, 2000, in New York City.

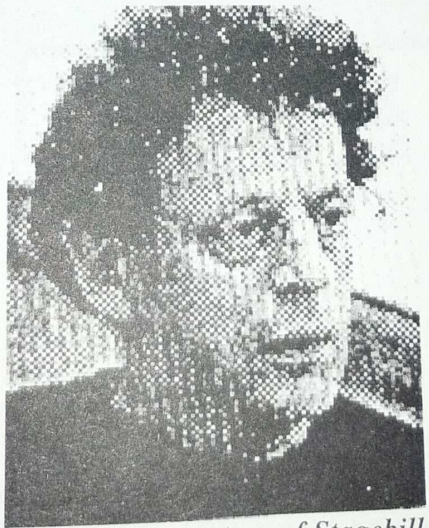


*photo courtesy of Stagebill*
*Phillip Glass*

The symphony is divided into three movements: "Fast," "Slower," and "Very Fast." The piece called for two timpanists, who each had seven timpani, as opposed to the usual two to four. Both players soloed through a cadenza that joined the second and third movements.

Matt Anderson, a junior who attended the concert, said of the timpanists, "They were so fast and amazing.This is definitely the music of the future."

Glass's piece was accompanied by the Overture and Three Dances from Bedrich Smetana's "Bartered Bride" and Otto Resphigi's "Pines of Rome," which appeared in Disney's "Fantasia 2000." Macal chose these pieces to accompany Glass' work due to their dramatic nature. "Knowing that the concerto would call for two timpanists to play on no less than 14 timpani placed across the front of the stage, I was struck by how theatrical this arrangement would be, not only to see but also in performance. It seemed perfectly logical, then, to program companion works that were equally theatrical."

For the last movement of "Pines of Rome," six brass players were positioned throughout the balcony, and a recording of a Nightengale song was played. This had an amazing effect, surrounding the audience with sound. Senior Chris Snowdy said; "The end of 'Pines of Rome' was amazing. It kept growing and growing, and when you thought it couldn't get any louder, it did. It was truly amazing."

# Movie Calendar

***Coming to Theaters***

***May 11***
*A Knight's Tale*
**starring Heath Ledger*

***May 18***
*Angel Eyes*
**starring Jennifer Lopez*
*About Adam*
**starring Kate Hudson*

***May 25***
*Pearl Harbor*
**starring Ben Affleck*

***June 1***
*What's the Worst That Could Happen?*
**starring Martin Lawrence*

***June 11***
*Moulin Rouge*
**starring Nicole Kidman*

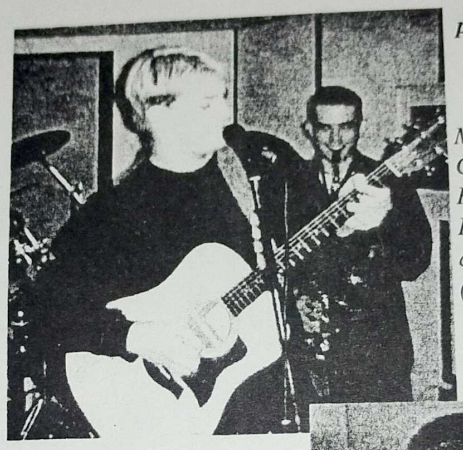
***Now Available on Video***

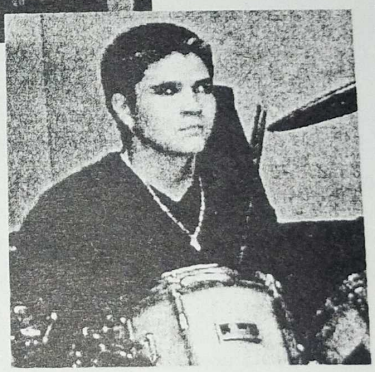
*All the Pretty Horses*
*Duets*
*Miss Congeniality*
*Pay It Forward*
*What Women Want*

# Chim Chimeny Sweeps AHS Away

***By Courtney Mathus***
*Backpage Editor*

There's a new sound in town. Chim Chimeny, a new jam band that consists of AHS students, will soon be heard around town. After winning Lewis and Clark Community College's annual talent show in February, the band will soon be playing opening gigs for the local "Jason Gordon Band."





***photos by David Fitzgerald***

*Members of Chim Chimeny, Adam Hott (below), Darin Hulslander and Jacob Gordon (left), practice.*

Chim Chimeny all started with Darin Hulslander (guitar/vocals) and Jake Gordon (sax/flute) jamming and creating new riffs together. In February, five days before the talent show, they underwent a change and added Adam Hott as a drummer. "Jake and Darin gave me about five days to learn the song we played at the talent show and forced me to stay up all night (to play)," said Hott. "We had almost lost all hope of entering the talent show, but Adam showed us that he was up for the challenge with his quick learning and great drumming abilities," said Gordon. "I was amazed the first time I heard them," said senior Rachel Abner, Chim Chimeny's number one fan, "They just keep getting better and better!"

The band's influences are music greats, such as The Dave Matthews Band, David Gray, Phish and Bela Fleck. "Me and Jake have grown up on all of these great musicians, and their styles can be reflected in our songs," said Hulslander. "We are also going to experiment with different music, anything that will be more creative," added Hott.

This is only the beginning. "Hopefully the best is yet to come. I'm playing with a great group of guys, which is why I feel that we have the potential to be a big live act." said Hulslander about the bands future. "I'm looking forward to playing live," said Hott. "If we can pull it off in a week, give us a few months," added Gordon.

**BURTON**
**ART SERVICES**

**Framing - Installation**
**Restoration - Appraisal**

**618/462-6480**
**314/485-9011**

**908 State Street**
**Alton. Illinois 62002**

***Hours by Chance or Appointment***

# * AFTER PROM *

## at Riverbend Billiards & Grill

12-4 A.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30

*

*Free* Food and Drinks

DJ *

Games
Joust
Bungee Run
Gambling

*

Karaoke

AUCTION AT THE END OF THE NIGHT

ONLY$10!

*

T-shirt included with ticket price

*

# *Thank You Mr. Heintz!*

*Sometimes when people are*
*really nice to us,*
*it is hard to think of what to say.*
*So we'll just say,*

# THANK YOU!

RBW

# HUMOR

February 2001

This is all satire. Calm down. Good-bye.

## BYE BYE, ALTON HIGH

**By Stephen Heintz**
*Humor Editor*

I've been a long time reader of the RedBird Word, ever since my freshman year, in fact. One thing I've noticed about the senior edition is that there are two types of editorials you can write: "Good-bye, I'm gonna miss you guys," and "@#$% you all, I'm outta here. Here's why you made me mad."

I'm a typically caring and loving person, and so I won't leave any of your souls crumpled into little balls of self-hatred, crying at your own foolishness, I'm gonna do the happy one! Here's the formula as I've observed it:

A)- Share a fond memory.
B)- Leave some advice for underclassmen.
C)- Thank a teacher who changed your life.
D)- Tell everyone how much you'll miss them.

**My "farewell to Alton High" editorial:**

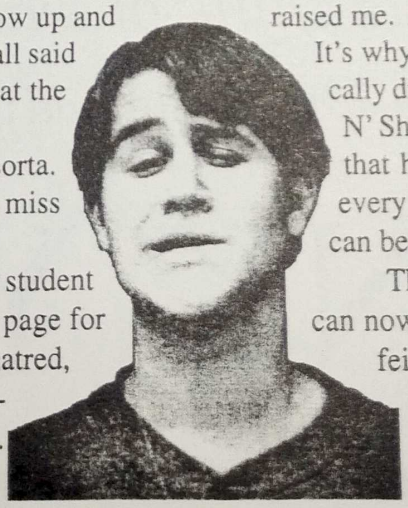
A) I'll never forget you Alton High. I'll always remember that time my freshman year that all those kids pantsed me, hung me on the flagpole, spray-painted my eyes, trashed my car, and played tetherball with my limp, nearly-lifeless body as I hung there, crying. The doctors gave me so many stitches, they ran out of surgical thread and had to use a staple gun to keep my arms on.

B) For all of you underclassmen out there, I give you this advice: work hard, study and keep off drugs. If you can't work hard, pay someone else to work hard for you. If you can't study, try not to be too obvious when you cheat. If you can't keep off drugs, at least try to keep on the "lesser evils" like glue and marker sniffing or good ol' harmless crystal meth.

C) Most importantly, I'd like to thank a teacher that did more for me than any other teacher has ever done. I'd like to, but unfortunately all of my teachers hated me. They all made a point of telling their students that they could all grow up and accomplish their dreams... except me. They all said that I would wind up a hobo who would die at the age of 28 from being hit by a train.

D) I'll miss all of you, very much... sorta. Maybe not all of you, but some of you, I'll miss very much, I suppose.

On a serious note, thanks a lot to the student body. Thanks to those of you who hated my page for not being particularly outspoken about that hatred, and thanks to those of you who liked it for letting me know. It sure meant a lot to me. *sniffle*



## THE WORTHLESS DECADE

**By Stephen Heintz**
*Humor Editor*

There were two good things that came out of the eighties: me, and Voltron. Voltron got canceled. I didn't.

The eighties were a time of tight pants, Michael Jackson, crazy hair, awful music, and unfortunately, my development. I'm pretty sure that it's the reason our generation is so full of apathy and short attention spans. Much like the victims of any other awful tragedy, we just tried to block out all the horror.

A small developing mind simply doesn't know how to cope with jeans *that tight*, or the concept of wearing only one single jewel-studded glove, so we divided our attentions into five-second increments to escape the pain... the horrible burning pain of the New Kids on the Block and the mullet.

Scientists are, to this day, baffled as to how exactly I came out as sexy and as intellijent as I did, despite my most impressionable years being spent in the 80s. I was a test subject in a recent Harvard University "decade-effect" research experiment that tested the personalities and behaviorisms of people raised in certain time periods. Those born in the 20s through 50s were unanimously proven to be *totally* old. Those born in the 60s were too "mind-blasted" on psychedelic drugs and free love to show up to the tests, and those born in the 70s were proven to unanimously have comically wide ties and shaggy carpets. As for the 80s, we were all bitter, disillusioned, mean little people... except for me. Why am I this way, you ask?

The answer can be found in a simple four words: Saved.. By... The... Bell.

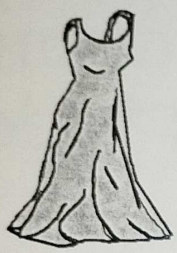
Zack, Jesse, Slater, Lisa, Kelly, and who could forget tha curly-haired nerd Screech? They were my best friends. All their good, wholesome antics, goings-on and whatnot practical raised me. It's the reason my band is named "Stephen Attack It's why my friends and my singing voices all sound dras cally different than our speaking voices. It's why I call Ste N' Shake "The Max." Most importantly, it's how I learn that high school is a good, wholesome, hip place wh every day is a new kooky adventure, and that our princ can be our friend. It's how I survived high school.

That's what I wanted to write about here. Of cour can now see how awful the show was, and how Jesse's feine addiction wasn't exactly the height of dramati cellence, but at the time, that show rocked. Th Saved by the Bell. Thank you for raising m making me who I am: a hip, radical high schoo

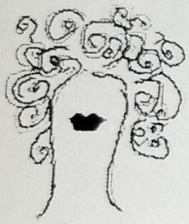
A Special Prom Tribute... By Someone Who's Going Because her Boyfriend Wants Her To

## Then Again Not

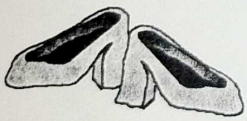
*By Amy Porter*
*Cover Story Editor*



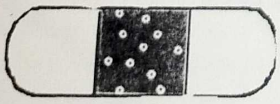
The perfect dress.
$120



Afternoon at the Salon.
$50



Shoes dyed to match.
Removed after five minutes and three blisters.
$40



Bandaids.
For the blisters.
$3

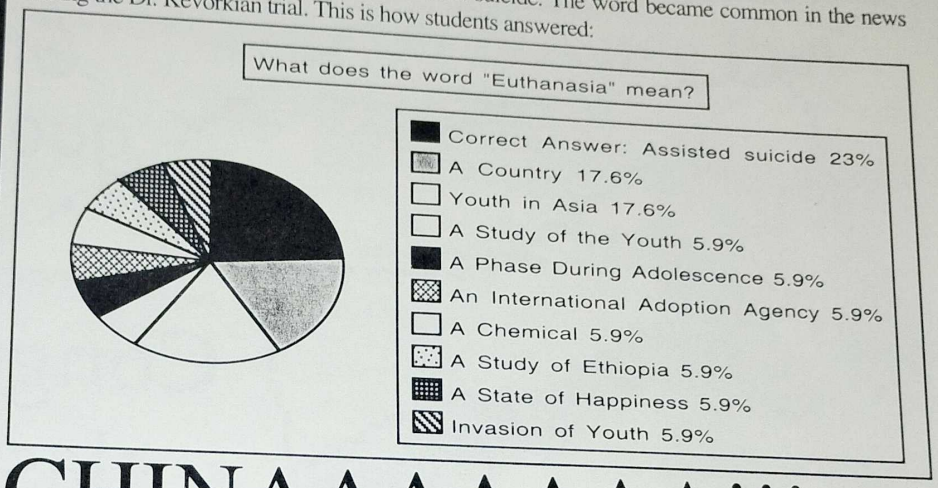
The last time you have to see that idiot who put gum in your hair in the fifth grade.
Priceless.

# Youth in Asia?

*By Erin McCann*
*Managing Editor*

The Redbird Word took a poll of approximately 50 Alton High students to see how many were informed enough about world issues to know the meaning of the word "Euthanasia."

Euthanasia is also referred to as assisted suicide. The word became common in the news during the Dr. Kevorkian trial. This is how students answered:


What does the word "Euthanasia" mean?
Correct Answer: Assisted suicide 23%
A Country 17.6%
Youth in Asia 17.6%
A Study of the Youth 5.9%
A Phase During Adolescence 5.9%
An International Adoption Agency 5.9%
A Chemical 5.9%
A Study of Ethiopia 5.9%
A State of Happiness 5.9%
Invasion of Youth 5.9%

# CHINAAAAAAAA!!!

*By Benjamin Harris*

Alton High Social Studies teacher Mr. Clean's senior class trip to China came to an abrupt halt due to their charter jet being mistaken for a spy plane. Chinese officials have detained students, and are awaiting a formal apology from the U.S. government.

Clean arranged for his class to leave for Hong Kong last week, and to come back after a three week stay. Clean had focused much of his class time on China and had decided that the country would be a good place for a senior trip.

The aircraft had not been across the border for five minutes before several Chinese fighter jets had opened fire. Clean's plane survived the shoddy foreign missile onslaught, and managed to land safely. Unfortunately, upon landing, they were quickly captured.

Chinese officials reported that they have stopped caring what type of craft flies into their boundaries, and are now attempting to shoot down anything in the sky; planes, birds, kites, or children, it doesn't matter. They will also be brutally caning Mr. Clean's class 24 hours a day until the apology and access codes to our nuclear devices are received.

"We don't like Americans any more," said General Azaka Kamidake. "We all spy, but you're not supposed to get caught. You screwed up. Your children are now ours."

American General Sam Smith responded to that with the following statement: "Well, WOO-DE-DOO! You're a big man, aren't you, Mr. China? Poking children with sticks and breaking our stuff to prove a point! Keep the stupid kids. I hope you choke on 'em."

Despite General Smith's earlier vote to leave the captives in China, America will be responding by sending a SWAT team dressed as a Brownie troupe over the Chinese borders, armed only with Butter-Nut Fudge cookies, in an effort to rescue our classmates.

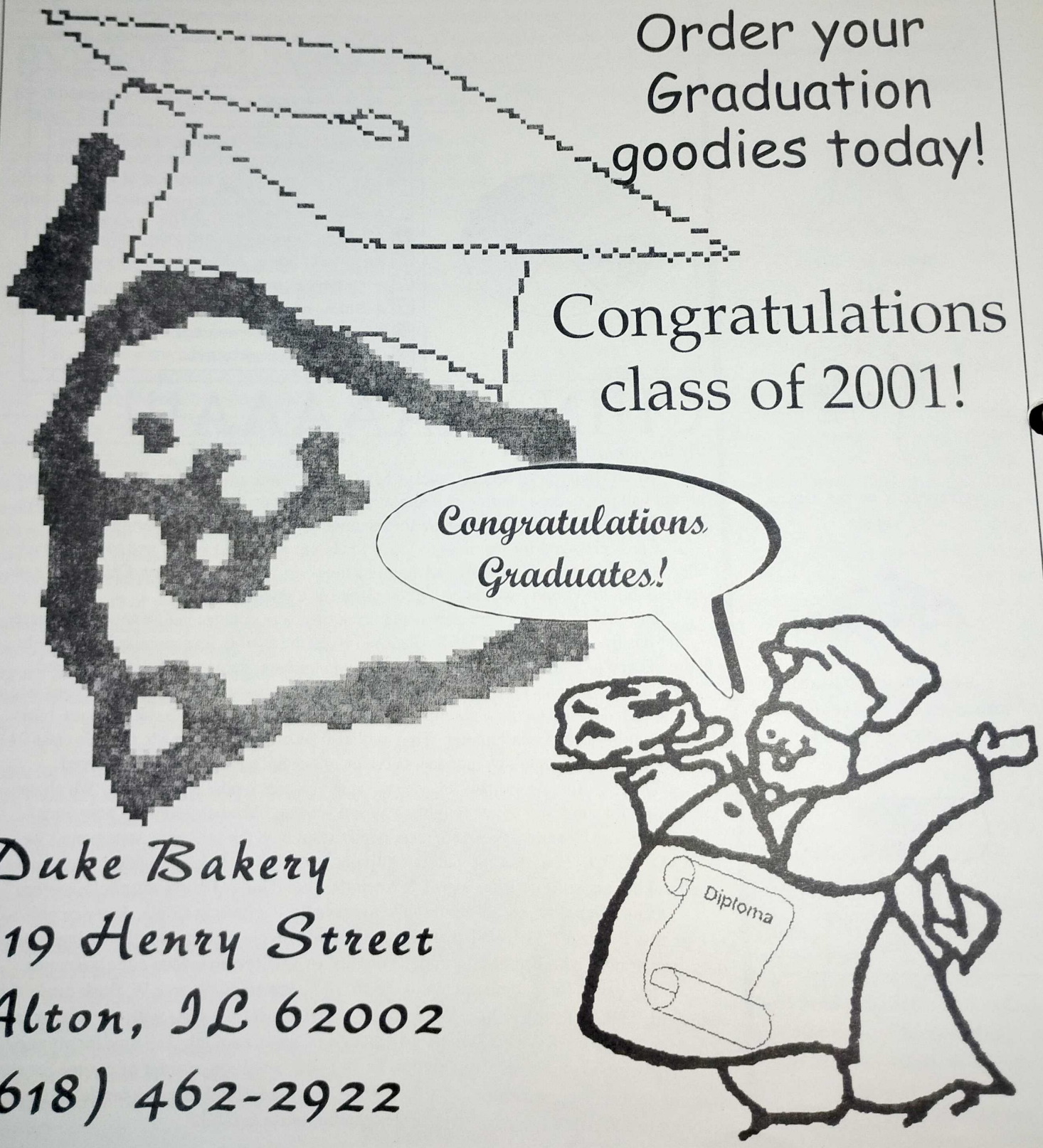
When asked for a comment about the strategy, President George W. Bush made the statement, "SWAT team? What SWAT team? They're just little girls with cookies. Yeah, like we're gonna waste a SWAT team. I'm just givin' away cookies. Is it time for my nap?"

The students have been reported to be in good condition, except of course for the constant canings and starvation, as where Mr. Clean, age 152, has gone senile and is attempting to eat his way home. He has been, so far, unsuccessful.

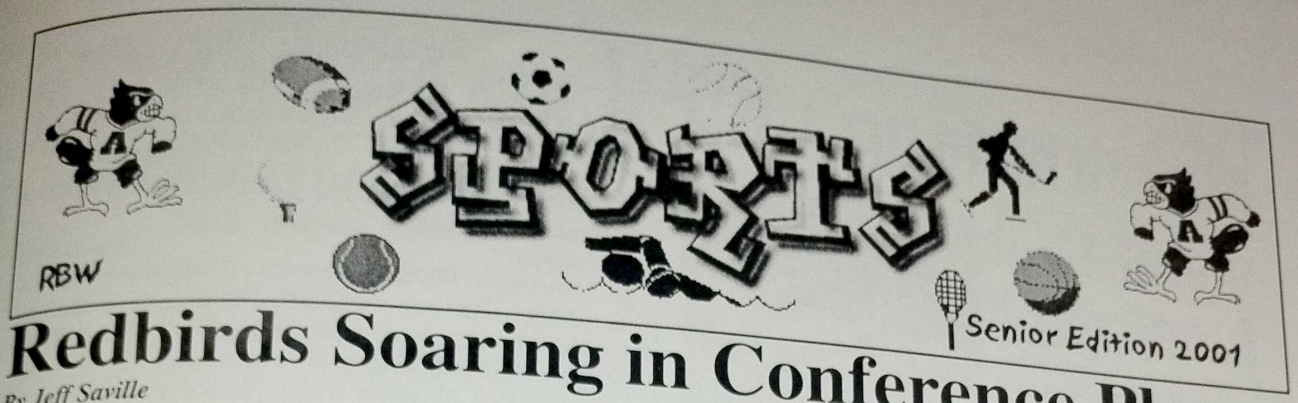
# DUKE BAKERY

Order your Graduation goodies today!

Congratulations class of 2001!




Duke Bakery
819 Henry Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-2922




# Redbirds Soaring in Conference Play

*By Jeff Saville*
*Sports Editor*

As predicted the Alton Redbirds baseball club is rolling through the season with good pitching, defense and exceptional hitting.

The Redbirds are 14-5 overall and 5-2 in the Southwestern Conference and are currently on an eight game winning streak, beating such teams as Edwardsville, O'Fallon and number one ranked Chaminade in the St. Louis area poll.

To start the winning streak Alton defeated the Kennedy Celts 9-3. The game started out a pitching duel until the runs started to explode, with Alton scoring seven in the fifth and two in the sixth. With the big fifth inning for the Redbirds, the Celts could not find enough offense to come back from such a large deficit.

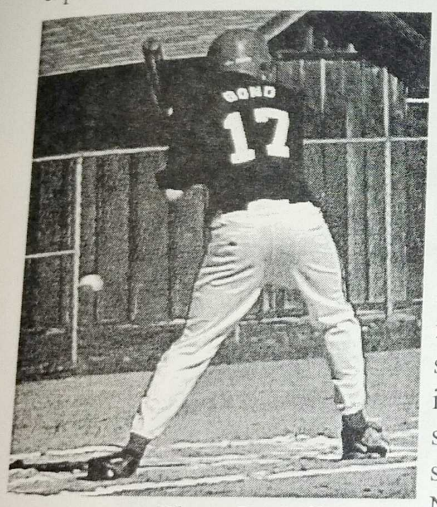



***Photo By Jeff Saville***
*Jeremy Bond watches the ball.*

The Redbirds next had the Granite City Warriors to battle. It was a very sloppy game with a total of nine errors. The Redbirds scored two runs in the first inning and continued to score 10 more runs giving starting pitcher Stephen Nash the win. Nash also had nine strikeouts on two hits and one earned run.

With a two game winning streak, the Edwardsville Tigers came to play. Starting pitcher John Bertoletti was phenomenal in shutting the door on Alton's conference rival,.going the distance for back-to-back conference victories.

Alton continued their winning streak in winning both games of their double header against Jacksonville. They won the first game 12-2 and the next game 11-4. Alton's Stephen Nash had a big day at the plate going 3-5 with two triples, five RBI's and a homerun in both games.

After the two big wins against Jacksonville the Redbirds traveled to Collinsville.With a well pitched complete game by Stephen Nash and a homerun from Thomas Richards, Alton was able to defeat the Kahoks in their own park 9-5.

Alton next faced the O'Fallon Panthers in another conference showdown. Alton called on once again John Bertoletti to shut down the door. Most of the offense came from the top of the order with Jeremy Bond and Pat Gibson both receiving two hits. In an offensive struggle from both teams, the Redbirds pulled off the victory winning a close 6-4 game when O'Fallon threatened to come back scoring runs in the late innings.

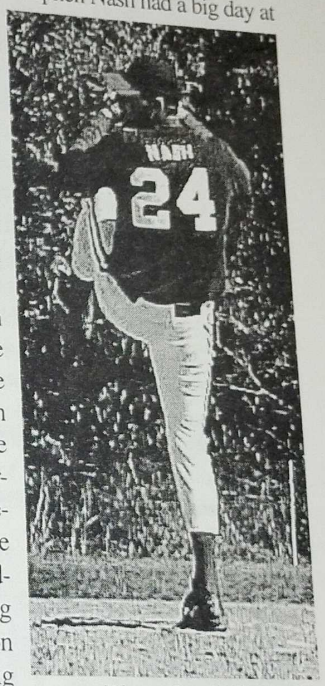



***Photo By Jeff Saville***
*Stephen Nash pitching against Belleville West*

With seven wins under their belts, Alton had to face the number one team in the St. Louis area in Chaminade. The Redbirds came to St. Louis ready to play. Pat Gibson had a solo homerun and Matt Dorner, Thomas Richards, and Zach Wooley all had two hits in the 11-7 victory.

The Redbirds are now in a conference battle with Edwardsville and Belleville West.

# Softball Winning With New Attitude

*By Carol Lyons*

The Alton Redbirds are showing a whole new attitude this season. The season got underway with a win against the Bunker Hill Minutemaids. This win was especially satisfying because the Minutemaids have beaten Alton numerous times in past years. Next the Roxana Shells were to be entertained by the Redbirds. Both teams battled the entire game in which the Redbirds were victorious with a close 2-1 victory.

Alton later traveled to face the Belleville West Maroons in a Southwestern Conference battle. Unfortunately the always tough Maroons defeated the Redbirds. The Redbirds regained their winning ways with a 20-0 thrashing of East St. Louis giving Alton their first Conference victory.

"There's no reason why we shouldn't win 20 games this year," said Alton coach Dan Carter. The Redbirds are currently seated fifth on the east side of the river.

# No Hard Hurdles For Alton

*By Toni Baskin*

The Alton Girls' Track team have accomplished a lot this season.

The first meet this season was held at SIUE on March 24. Fourteen teams competed in this meet. O'Fallon won with 93.5 pts. and Alton placed fourth with 63 pts.

***photo by Stephanie Wright***
*Stephanie Gordon practices the long jump event.*

Alton girls then received a first on March 27 against Collinsville and Edwardsville. Jessica Stockard placed first in the 200 Meter Dash with a time of 26.6 seconds. Also Vanessa Garrison and Shawana Burgess received first in the 800 Meter Medley with a final time of 1:05.5.

On March 29 the girls ran at Highland. Joanna Bratton, Kim Lumpkin and Lajuana McGowan received second place in the 1600 Meter Relay. Alton received first place with 94 pts. over Mount Vernon (79 pts.), Highland (69 pts.) and Mascoutah (9 pts.).

"This season everyone is really putting their minds to it," said senior Stephanie Gordon. "We do exactly what our shirts say. We come to compete."

# Boys' Tennis Team

## Getting into the Swing of Things

***By Stephanie Wright***
*Senior Editor*

The Boys' Tennis team seems to be on a roll again this season. The team was 10-0 until they were handed their first loss by the Edwardsville Tigers.

The Redbirds lost to Edwardsville 7-2 on April 24. Junior Rob Simpson won both of his matches, his single and his double with partner, Brett Hartig.

"Edwardsville just came out more prepared than us," said senior Paul Rogers.

"We should beat them next time," said senior Tony Hong. "I'm looking forward to seeing them at the conference tournament."

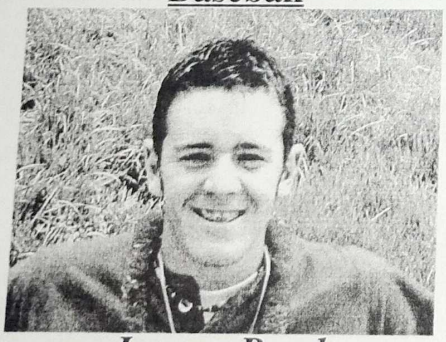
This season the varsity team consists of four seniors and two juniors.

The team beat the O'Fallon Panthers 6-3 on March 27 for their first conference victory of the season.

At this match the team played without two varsity players, seniors Chris Hill and Jon Darr. They were replaced with freshmen, Nick Redd and Lance Martin.

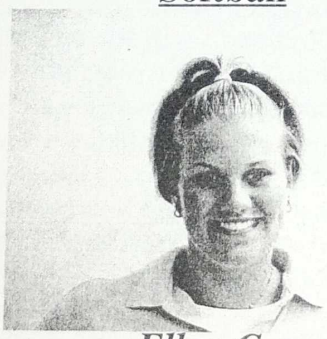
# TOP SPRING ATHLETES

**Baseball**



***Jeremy Bond***
**Junior**
**Boys' Track**

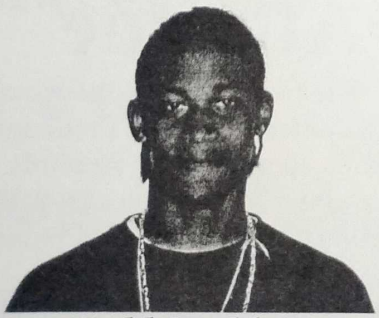
**Softball**



***Ellen Cox***
**Senior**
**Girls' Track**

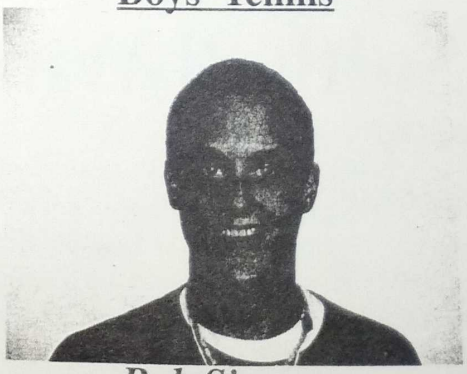
**Girls' Soccer**

***Katie Hammond***
**Senior**
**Boys' Tennis**



***Todd Lockhart***
**Sophomore**

***Jessica Stockard***
**Junior**



***Rob Simpson***
**Junior**

# Cuddle Up With Courtney

By: Courtney Mathus

## Can you match each Senior with their licence plate?

| | |
|---|---|
| James Mays | ANIMTR 2 |
| Courtney Mathus | CPM 82 |
| Catharine McNelly | DRUMR 83 |
| Audrey Hinrichs | HARD 79 |
| Tony Henkhaus | FO RUNNA |
| Eric Heischmidt | LIL P 2 |
| Adele Lahl | RACHY 83 |
| Katie Hard | LJJJT 5 |
| Rosalyn Berry | HENLO 1 |
| Chris Muscrella | ASH KAT 2 |
| Stacey Garrison | DEED 5 |
| Stephanie Wright | RDHOT 53 |
| David Knoche | HITTN 10 |
| Jim Hall | DELI 5 |
| Julie Zimmer | GABE 36 |
| Rachel Wedding | J HALL 10 |
| Zach Deeder | MS ROS 77 |
| Brandon Sharp | AUDIE 88 |
| Soloman Dell | SLIDR 5 |
| Andy Herrin | MSEJ |
| Ellen Cox | SLUCPA 1 |
| Christianne Beck | HGH ONE |
| Gabe Delehanty | A NOEL 23 |
| Rachel Sidwell | SIDS 6 |
| Michael Crammond | B JPN 3 |
| Jeff Saville | JULZ 136 |
| Anna Noel | HYSTK 88 |
| Abby Purcell | IM TGR 1 |
| Ashley Holland | LITL C 14 |

## Listen to Me - I Know What I'm Talking About

It's that time of year again. Seniors of the class of 2001 are off to the colleges of their choice. Now that I am leaving AHS, there are a few things I realize now that I hadn't before. All underclassmen: keep reading! This is my advice to you.

Get all required classes out of the way ASAP! Don't wait until last semester of your senior year to squeeze all required classes in, crossing your fingers that you'll pass U.S. History can graduate on time. There is enough stress as it is. Don't add to it.

Visit your counselor often, at least once a week. Find out about all scholarships available and apply for all of them. Don't wait until your senior year to do it. There are plenty of scholarships available for sophomores and juniors, too!

Take dual credit classes. AHS is fortunate enough to offer classes through Lewis & Clark College that are transferable to just about any other school. This will save you and your parents time and money in the future.

And please, if you have all required classes out of the way and you will be taking practically five study halls a day, graduate early! Take a few classes at Lewis & Clark College. Get some basic credit classes out of the way, so you won't sit around feeling useless all day.

Good luck, study hard and have fun! See ya in the "real world."

# Horoscopes

Aries (March 21- April 19): Simplicity is your key to having a most successful and satisfying day. Avoid situations that seem overly complex.

Taurus (April 20- May 20): This month you have a greater possibility for romance. Improve your chances by letting your eyes and smile express your true intentions.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): You're just a shiny, happy person. Try showing off the qualities that make you unique.

Cancer (June 21- July 22): You'll want to spend more time with someone you find special. Try planning something unexpected with that special person.

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22): Your leadership skills are stronger than usual. You should put yourself into positions to take a great leadership role.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Do you feel like having an adventure? You're more likely to have an adventure when you go on a short journey.

Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): More people around you will differ in their beliefs from yours. Rather than clash with them, listen respectfully to their opinions.

Scorpio (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): Think long and hard about what you want. There may be a way to realize these dreams.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): A secret is just a discovery waiting to happen.

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19): You are at a turning point in your life. Turn left.

Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): It is better to be polite than to be sincere. Your truthfulness may not be appreciated.

Pisces (Feb. 19- March 20): You may get an opportunity to make a very good profit. Your main task is not to miss it.

Children and we're not growing up! We're 80's Children and we're not growing up! We're 80's Children and we're not growing up!
It looks like I have a beard. Gross! Jama - Care Bear
SENIOR EDITION
Stacey - Red Fraggle
Umm... I think my page is going to be late again. Oops. Stephanie - Care Bear
SENIOR EDITION
Megan - Care Bear
Catharine - Smurf
David - Gumby
But I wanted to be Barbie... Courtney - Jem
Audrey - Ariel
He, he. I'm a marshmallow! Doyle - Stay-Puft
hael - Panthro
Jeff - GhostBuster
SENIOR EDITION